

IN THE CLAIMS:

**Applicants respectfully request that the Claims be amended
so as to read as follows:**

1. (Currently Amended) An integrated unit, comprising:
 - a laser beam source for emitting a laser beam;
 - a detecting portion for detecting reflection of said emitted laser beam;
 - optical elements for controlling the pathways defined by said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof, said optical elements including at least a diffraction element for diffracting said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof;
 - a casing accommodating said laser beam source and said detecting portion; and
 - a transparent optical compensation film for circularizing the polarization of light passing therethrough such that light exiting therefrom is circularly or elliptically polarized, said transparent optical compensation film (i) comprising a polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by a first type of film index ellipsoid, said polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by said first type of film index ellipsoid having been formed by uniaxially stretching or biaxially stretching a polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by a film index ellipsoid of a different type from said first type of film index ellipsoid ~~uniaxially stretched or biaxially stretched~~

~~polyolefin-type polymer film~~ such that said film index ellipsoid of said different type from said first type of film index ellipsoid is changed into said first type of film index ellipsoid by said stretching, and (ii) being formed integrally with one of said optical elements or with an end of said casing so as to be disposed in said optical pathways defined by said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof.

2. (Cancelled, without prejudice)
3. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 1, wherein said optical compensation film is attached onto said diffraction element.
4. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 1, including said optical compensation film inside said diffraction element.
5. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 1, wherein said casing and said optical compensation film are integrated.
6. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 1, including a cap member, provided to said casing, for closing an opening.

7. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 6, wherein said cap member and an optical compensation film are integrated.
8. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 3, wherein said diffraction element has a diffraction pattern for diffracting a laser beam, said diffraction pattern being formed on said optical compensation film.
9. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 3, wherein said diffraction element has a diffraction pattern for diffracting a laser beam, said optical compensation film being formed on said diffraction pattern.
- 10 (Currently Amended) An optical pickup for reading information on an optical disk by condensing a laser beam onto the optical disk, comprising:
a laser beam source for emitting a laser beam;
a detecting portion for detecting reflection of said emitted laser beam;
optical elements for controlling the pathways defined by said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof, said optical elements including at least a diffraction element for diffracting said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof;
a casing accommodating said laser beam source and said detecting portion;

an integrated unit in which said diffraction element and
said casing are integrated;
an objective lens for condensing the laser beam onto the
optical disk; and
a transparent optical compensation film for circularizing the
polarization of light passing therethrough such that light
exiting therefrom is circularly or elliptically polarized, said
transparent optical compensation film (i) comprising a
polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by a first type of
film index ellipsoid, said polyolefin-type polymer film
characterized by said first type of film index ellipsoid having
been formed by uniaxially stretching or biaxially stretching
a polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by a film index
ellipsoid of a different type from said first type of film index
ellipsoid ~~uniaxially stretched or biaxially stretched~~
~~polyolefin-type polymer film~~ such that said film index
ellipsoid of said different type from said first type of film
index ellipsoid is changed into said first type of film index
ellipsoid by said stretching, and (ii) being formed integrally
with one of said optical elements or with an end of said
casing so as to be disposed in said optical pathways defined
by said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) An optical pickup for reading information recorded on an optical disk by condensing a laser beam onto the optical disk, comprising:

- a laser beam source for emitting a laser beam;
- a detecting portion for detecting a reflected light;
- a diffraction element for diffracting the laser beam;
- a casing accommodating said laser beam source and said detecting portion;

- an integrated unit in which said diffraction element and said casing are integrated;

- an objective lens for condensing the laser beam onto the optical disk; and

- a reflection mirror for changing a direction of the laser beam; wherein

said reflection mirror is integrated with a transparent optical compensation film, said transparent optical compensation film (i) comprising a polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by a first type of film index ellipsoid, said polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by said first type of film index ellipsoid having been formed by uniaxially stretching or biaxially stretching a polyolefin-type polymer film characterized by a film index ellipsoid of a different type from said first type of film index ellipsoid ~~uniaxially stretched or biaxially stretched polyolefin-~~

type polymer film such that said film index ellipsoid of said different type from said first type of film index ellipsoid is changed into said first type of film index ellipsoid by said stretching, and (ii) being adapted to circularize the polarization of light passing therethrough such that light exiting therefrom is circularly or elliptically polarized.